(ख) यदि हां, तो सहायता के संबंध में क्या मानदंड अपनाए गए हैं;

(ग) क्या सातवीं पंचवर्षीय योजना के दौरान योजना आयोग द्वारा गठित कार्यकारी दल की तकनीकी समिति ने मध्य प्रदेश के कतिपय पहाड़ी क्षेत्रों की पहचान की थी;

(घ) यदि हां, तो क्या उन क्षेत्रों को केन्द्रीय सहायता उपलब्ध कराई गई थी; और

(ङ) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है; यदि नहीं, तो उनके कारण क्या हैं और यह कब तक दिए जाने का प्रस्ताव है।

योजना एवं कार्यक्रम कार्यान्वयन मंत्रालय के राज्य, मंत्री तथा विज्ञान और प्रौद्योगिकी मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री योगेन्द्र के० अलग) (क) और (ख) जी हां, सभी निर्धारित पहाड़ी क्षेत्रों अर्थात् उत्तर प्रदेश, तमिलनाडु, पश्चिम बंगाल व असम के पहाड़ी क्षेत्रों और पश्चिमी घाटों के निर्धारित तालुकाओं को पर्वतीय क्षेत्र विकास कार्यक्रम के अन्तर्गत विशेष केन्द्रीय सहायता प्रदान की जाती है। पर्वतीय क्षेत्र विकास कार्यक्रम के अन्तर्गत उपलब्ध कुल विशेष केन्द्रीय सहायता पर्वतीय क्षेत्र विकास कार्यक्रम और पश्चिमी घाट विकास कार्यक्रम के बीच 86.61 : 13.39 के अनुपात में आबंटित की जाती है। पर्वतीय क्षेत्र विकास कार्यक्रम के लिए विशेष केन्द्रीय सहायता का परस्पर वितरण क्षेत्र की आबादी एवं क्षेत्रफल के आधार पर किया जाता है। जिसमें इन दोनों बातों को समान महत्व दिया जाता है। पश्चिमी घाट विकास कार्यक्रम के मामले में आबादी को 25% और क्षेत्रफल को 75% का महत्व दिया जाता है।

(ग) से (ङ) जी, हां, परन्तु निधियों को कमी के कारण किसी भी नए पर्वतीय क्षेत्रों में पर्वत क्षेत्र विकास कार्यक्रम का विस्तार न करने का निर्णय लिया गया था जिसमें पश्चिमी घाटों के नए क्षेत्र भी शामिल हैं।

Criteria for poverty determination

3141. SHRI RAM GOPAL YADAV:
SHRI ISH DUTT YADAV:

Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) the criterion in respect of poverty determination;

(b) whether it is a fact that the eminent economists do not agree with Government in this regard; and

(c) if so, Government's reaction in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) to (c) The Planning Commission estimates the incidence of poverty at national and state level based on the poverty line adopted by the Expert Group on the Estimation of Proportion and Number of Poor. The Expert Group itself consisted of very outstanding economists. It defined the poverty line as monthly per capita consumer expenditure of Rs. 49.09 in rural areas and Rs. 56.64 in urban areas at 1973-74 prices corresponding to a basket of goods and services anchored on a norm of per capita daily calories requirement of 2400 in rural areas and 2100 in urban areas. This has not been disputed, in serious dicussions.

Integration of Poverty Alleviation and credit linked self employment schemes

3142. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to integrate all the poverty alleviation and credit linked centrally sponsored self employment schemes;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) to (c) A committee was set up under Chairmanship of Member, Planning Commission to Review and Rationalise Centrally Sponsored Schemes of Poverty Alleviation and Employment Generation. The programmes/schemes of the Ministry of Rural Areas & Employment, Ministry of Urban Affairs & Employment,

Ministry of Welfare, Department of Small Scale Inustries, Agro & Rural Industries and Department of Women & Child Development were examined by the Committee. After a detailed review of these schemes the Committee has recommended streamlining the existing schemes and rationalisation of norms and procedures for their implementation. However, there is no proposal in the Report to bring all the poverty alleviation schemes under a single Central nodal agency. The Committee has since submitted its Report to the Government.

Hydrology Study Project

3143. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have given sanction to a hydrology study project under the Department of Science and Technology, involving a cost of Rs. six crores;

(b) if so, the ambit of this study;

(c) whether the proposed study includes Andhra Pradesh;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) to (d) The Government has sanctioned during 1996-97 a World Bank funded hydroloy project for which the nodal agency is the Ministry of Water Resources. Five Central agencies and eight States including Andhra Pradesh are participating in the project. India Meteorological Department (IMD) under the Department of Science and Technology is implementing a component of the project relating to meteorology. The total cost of the project is about Rs. 602.8 crores, out of which IMD component is about Rs. 23.9 crores.

The ambit of this project is to upgrade the existing facilities of surface water observation systems for rainfall, river flow and ground water. The IMD's involvement is in hydrometeorological aspect and aims basically at enhancing quality and quantity of hydrometeorological observations and data, their dissemination among users, and conducting training for the personnel of the participating State Governments.

(e) Does not arise.

Import of Coal

3144. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Vizag Steel Plant has recently awarded a contract to an Australian company for the import of coal without floating global tenders;

(b) if so, what is the expenditure involved (in foreign exchange) in the import of coal;

(c) the reasons for awarding a contract without inviting global tenders; and

(d) the reaction of Government with regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) to (d) A global tender was floated by Visakhapatnam Steel Plant (VSP) in May, 1996 for the supply of Semi Soft Coking Coal, which is cheaper to hard coking coal. As the offers did not give expected price advantage, the tender was discharged for obtaining fresh offers on limited tender basis. Earlier VSP had carried out pilot oven blend test from the samples sent by some of the suppliers who had quoted against VSP's global tender mentioned above.

The offers were considered and contracts were awarded for supply of SSCC for total quantity ranging from 70,000 MT to 90,000 MT on two Australian parties namely, BHP Australia Coal Private Ltd. at FOB price of US$ 40.15 and Shell Company of Australia at FOB price US$ 39.15 per MT. The average FOB price thus works out to be US$ 39.65 MT and the total expenditure (in foreign exchange) for total quantity mentioned above would be in the range of US$ 2,775,500 to US$ 3,568,500.